

Office of the Governor

July 22, 2009

Chairman Rob Hendry
Natrona County Commission
200 N. Center, Room 115
Casper, WY 82601

Mayor Kenyne Schlager
City of Casper
200 North David Street
Casper, WY 82601

Dear Chairman Hendry and Mayor Schlager:

This letter is to request your review and response of the assessments performed by Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in regard to your declaration for assistance as a result of the July 3, 2009, flood. The Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA) was a cooperative effort among FEMA, the Small Business Administration (SBA), the Wyoming Office of Homeland Security (WOHS) and representatives from Natrona County Emergency Management. Complete worksheets and documentation of the assessments have been given to each respective agency for review and accuracy.

FEMA has established criteria for the assessments prior to a state requesting a Presidential Disaster Declaration. A PDA requires two distinct categories, which are defined as Individual Assistance (IA) and Public Assistance (PA). IA is assistance to individuals and households. PA is aid or assistance to public entities for certain emergency services or repair and replacement of disaster damaged public facilities.

The FEMA IA criteria require 100 homes have received major damage or are destroyed. FEMA not only uses a mathematical formula, but assesses other factors to determine the severity, magnitude and impact of a disaster. The PDA performed for Casper did not identify any homes destroyed. Seventeen homes were listed as major, indicating the home has sustained significant structural damages in which the repairs may exceed 30 days. (Attached for your review is *FEMA Region VIII Basic PDA Guidelines for Individual Assistance*)

The SBA provides low interest disaster loans to qualified home owners, renters, businesses and private non-profit organizations.

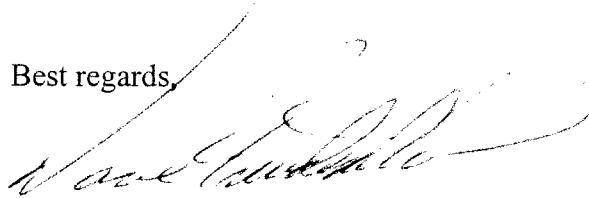
The state threshold for PA for replacement of damaged or destroyed public infrastructure to include other factors is a minimum of one million dollars in uninsured losses to the governmental entities. PA requires a 75% federal/25% state and local cost share. The following PDA for the city of Casper, Natrona County and other government entities are as follows:

Entity	PDA Estimate	Description
Natrona County	\$12,500.00	Insurance deductible
City of Casper	\$209,809.00	Overtime/road and bridges/insurance deductible
Town of Evansville	\$335,756.00	Overtime/water control facilities/public utilities
Town of Mills	\$32,496.00	Overtime/ road and bridges
Casper College	\$59,200.00	Water and mud damage
*Natrona County School District	\$142,010.00	Miscellaneous damage at various locations
Total	\$791,771.00	

*WOHS received the final damage estimate (insurance information not available) from the Natrona County School District on July 22, 2009.

Please review the appropriate documentation set forth in this letter and supporting documentation available to you to ensure all qualified damage has been documented and damage costs have been identified. FEMA allows until August 2, 2009, for any additional damages and costs to be identified and submitted to WOHS. Upon your review of the information available to date and the FEMA requirements, please advise if the state of Wyoming should proceed with a request to FEMA for a Presidential Declaration. We appreciate your cooperative effort and attention to this important matter.

Best regards,



Dave Freudenthal
Governor

Attachment
DF:mg

FEMA Region VIII Basic PDA Guidelines for Individual Assistance

The following guidelines are to be used by FEMA/State Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA) Teams while evaluating damages for Individual Assistance as the result of a disaster event. Please note that these guidelines are not absolute and damages are to be evaluated on an individual basis regarding the impacts to the home and the probable assistance necessary to address those impacts. Insurance cannot be duplicated by any federal programs so for those events where homeowners insurance may be applicable, particular attention to insurance coverage is important. Please also note your best estimate of owner occupied vs. renter occupied homes.

Categories of damage:

- a. **Destroyed**: Destroyed is used when there is a total loss or damage to such an extent that repairs are not economically feasible. Any one of the following may constitute a status of destroyed:
 1. Structure is not economically feasible to repair.
 2. Structure is permanently uninhabitable.
 3. *Complete* failures to most major components of structure (e.g. basement walls/foundation, walls, roof, etc.)
- b. **Major**: Major damage is when the home has sustained structural or significant damages, is uninhabitable and requires extensive repairs. (e.g. substantial failures to structural elements of the residence, repairs will take more than 30 days, has more than 50% damage, etc.)
- c. **Minor**: Minor damage is used when the home is damaged and may only be used under limited conditions, but can be restored with minor repairs (e.g. can be repaired in less than 30 days for only a few thousand dollars).
- d. **Affected**: Affected damage is if the living unit, porch, carport, garage, etc., was damaged but the living unit can still be occupied safely.

Secondary residences would not be covered by federal disaster assistance programs and as such would be counted separate from primary residences.